



City of Quincy, Massachusetts

OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL

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New Squantum Elementary School

Dear Neighbor:

I wanted to write today to briefly update you on the exciting recent news that the state has welcomed us into the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) program that will lead to a brand new Squantum Elementary School in the coming years.

As you well know, the School has served our neighborhood incredibly well for more than a century, but its time has come. I know full-well the importance a neighborhood school carries for our entire community, so since the day I took office, moving this project forward has been probably my highest priority as your Councillor.

I wish to specifically thank Mayor Koch for his partnership and persistence on this matter. It has taken a lot of work to get us to this point, and the Mayor and his team have been incredibly focused on getting us into the MSBA pipeline. To some degree, we're a victim of our own success when it comes to school construction. This will be Quincy's fourth major school project in just about a decade that qualifies for the MSBA reimbursement program, which is quite rare and likely part of the reason why we've had to stay persistent.

It's been a great team effort to date, with Representative Ayers and Senator Keenan, my colleagues on the Council and the School Committee all similarly doing all they can to push this forward.

Together with Mayor Koch, I'll be leading a full community process involving the entire neighborhood once we get moving on design and construction plans. The first step is an information gathering exercise over the next several months that the state needs us to complete to show that the City can finance and manage a project of this magnitude. We don't see this as a major hurdle for the very reason I noted earlier – Quincy has a proven record when it comes to school construction.

Once that first step is complete, we'll move to what the state calls the feasibility stage, where we will begin to have serious discussions – and neighborhood input – relative to the design and specifications of the building and site. Following that, the state will hopefully approve a full project agreement that includes how much state grant funding will be used for the project.

It is a long, elaborate process, so I want to offer a word of caution that it may take a couple of years before we're ready to break ground. Nonetheless, being allowed to enter into the state program is a huge step, and I'm very much looking forward to working with you and all of our neighbors on a terrific project for the future of Squantum.

City Hall, 1305 Hancock Street, Quincy, MA, 02169-5102

I will be keeping you informed every step of the way, and please let me know if you have any questions.

One of my most important roles as your Ward Six Councillor is to keep you informed of matters that may affect you. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please call me at 617-376-1356 or email me at wharris@quincyma.gov. If you do not currently receive my e-newsletter, please email me to sign up and/or friend request me on Facebook, "Bill Harris", to enhance our communication opportunities.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Harris", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

William P. Harris
Ward Six Councillor